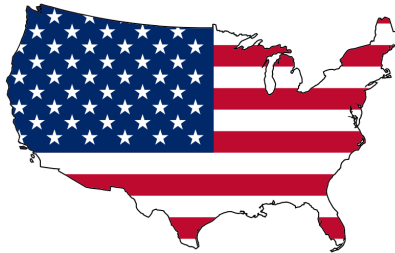


# United States Embassy Macedonia

## Presents Newsletter *C O L L A G E*



*Global articles for your interest*  
*Issue 14*  
*July 19- August 15, 2010*

### **Contents:**

#### **1. Obama to Attend NATO, EU Summits in Lisbon**

President Obama will attend the NATO and the U.S.-European Union summits November 19–20 in Lisbon, Portugal, where talks are expected to center on security, global warming, Afghanistan and economic recovery. ...

#### **2. Fourth Woman in US History to Serve on Highest Court**

Former Harvard Law School Dean Elena Kagan becomes the 112th justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, but she is only the fourth woman called to serve on the nation's highest court. The U.S. Senate voted to confirm her nomination 63–37. ...

#### **3. Obama's Statement on 45th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act**

President Obama makes a statement on the 45th anniversary of the Voting Rights Act, which is one of the most historic and groundbreaking pieces of legislation in the nation's history. ...

#### **4. Muslim-American Charitable Efforts Extend Beyond Ramadan**

As is the case with Muslim communities around the world, Ramadan for Muslims in America is marked by fasting and charity. But while fasting is observed one month of the year, many Muslim Americans make charity and giving back to their communities year-round activities. ...

#### **5. President Obama's Vision to Engage Muslims Moves Forward**

Over a year since his “A New Beginning” speech in Cairo, President Obama’s vision for engagement with Muslim communities around the world is making progress. Numerous approaches implemented by the Obama administration are strengthening cooperation between Muslims at home and abroad. ...

#### **6. US Welcomes International Court Ruling on Kosovo's Independence**

The United States welcomes a ruling by the International Court of Justice affirming Kosovo’s independence. Vice President Biden telephones Serbian President Boris Tadić to say that U.S. support for Kosovo’s sovereignty is “unwavering.” A day earlier, Biden met Kosovo Prime Minister Hashim Thaçi. ...

**In case you missed it:**

**U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Facebook](#) page**

**U.S. Embassy Macedonia [Youtube channel](#) **



*Ambassador Reeker meets with some of the future leaders attending the Young Leaders Training Workshop in Ohrid. (LP)*

### **[Ambassador Reeker Inspires Young Leaders of Macedonia](#)**

August 16, 2010

At the invitation of President Gjorge Ivanov, Ambassador Reeker gave Opening Remarks and a presentation at the Workshop for Young Leaders on Monday, August 16. The Ambassador focused on the elements of leadership, noting the difference in skill sets required for the performance and leading the performance. The Ambassador also noted that leaders must have the ability to solicit ideas from others, respond to feedback and build consensus. The Embassy is also supporting the Workshop by bringing an American expert on Technology Leadership, Dr. Phil Sussman.

♦ **To see full text of Ambassador Reeker's remarks please [click here](#).**

♦ **To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).**



*USAID Mission Director, [Michael T. Fritz](#)*

### **USAID Director Michael Fritz Highlights US Government Assistance Programs in Macedonia**

August 13, 2010

In a wide-ranging interview with Kapital, USAID Director Michael Fritz pointed to US Government achievements in supporting development and civil society in Macedonia. Director Fritz noted that projects aimed at economic development, combating corruption and improving social welfare were key to Macedonia's future integration into NATO and EU. At the same time, Director Fritz indicated that progress in separating politics from the judiciary was lacking and complicated essential judicial and rule of law reforms.

♦ **Please click here to read the interview:**

<http://macedonia.usaid.gov/en/Articles/Article39.html>



Ambassador [Philip T. Reeker](#)

## **Ambassador Reeker's Ramadan Greeting - 2010**

August 11, 2010

On the occasion of the start of the holy month of Ramadan, let me take this opportunity to send my warmest greetings, on behalf of President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton, to Muslims observing Ramadan throughout Macedonia. Across this country and around the world, as Muslims gather with families and communities in fasting, prayer and reflection, we are all reminded of those goals and values we share - to live in peace and security; to seek and receive a good education; to work with dignity; and to worship according to our faith and conscience. So from my family and the entire U.S. Embassy team, let me wish you a blessed, peaceful and joyous Ramadan.

◇ To see the video message of Ambassador Reeker's Ramadan Greeting, please [click here](#).



## **Joint statement by the EU Special Representative and Head of Delegation of the EU, the NATO HQ Skopje Commander and Senior Military Representative, the Head of the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje and the United States Ambassador.**

SKOPJE, 13 August 2010

The Delegation of the European Union, NATO HQ Skopje, the OSCE Spillover Monitor Mission to Skopje and the U.S. Embassy issued the following statement today to mark the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Ohrid Framework Agreement. ..[full text of the joint statement](#).



Ambassador Reeker welcomes Reis Rexhepi to the U.S. Embassy (LP)

## **U.S. Ambassador Philip Reeker Meets with Leaders of the Islamic Community of Macedonia**

August 11, 2010

Ambassador Reeker hosted Reis Rexhepi and Islamic Community of Macedonia officials at the Embassy on August 9th. The Ambassador delivered his greetings to all Muslims throughout Macedonia on the occasion of the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan. The discussion focused on the importance of religious dialogue among all the faiths of Macedonia and mutual respect for freedom of religious expression. The two also agreed that religious extremism has no role to play in Macedonia.



*The new Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, Angela Aggeler, praises the performances of the schoolchildren at the Creative Writing Workshop at the American Corner in Tetovo. | [video](#).*

## Cultural Envoy Merrilee Cunningham Brings English Skills to Schoolchildren through Storytelling and Acting

July 23, 2010

The new Public Affairs Officer (PAO) of the U.S. Embassy in Skopje Angela Aggeler attended the closing ceremony of the "Creative Writing Workshop" at the American Corner in Tetovo to award certificates to the young participants. This is the third year that the American Corners in Macedonia have hosted the 'Creative Writing Workshops,' developed for

children 7-16 years old, led by Merrilee Cunningham of the Writers in School Program and supported by a grant from the Embassy and the State Department's Bureau for Education and Cultural Affairs. 48 children attended this outstanding workshop, creating poetry, short stories and plays at the American Corner in Tetovo. Altogether over 150 schoolchildren will have enjoyed the camps at the Corners in Bitola, Skopje, Stip and Tetovo.

Following the event at the American Corner. Ms. Aggeler spoke to local media, noting the importance of the project and highlighting the positive impact of creativity and dynamic learning for the talented young writers and the broader community of Tetovo.

♦ **To see the video of PAO's interview with ART TV, please [click here](#).**



*Educational Affairs Officer John Surface encourages Roma students to set university studies and English skills as their goal. ([LP](#))*

## Educational Attache John Surface Meets with Roma Schoolchildren from the Embassy Neighborhood

July 16, 2010

Educational Affairs Officer John Surface visited the NGO Sumnal on Friday, July 16, to meet with Roma schoolchildren from the Embassy neighborhood. 30 students took time from their summer vacations to come practice their English and learn more about the work of an American Diplomat in Macedonia. As a former teacher and school director, John placed an emphasis on the importance of education and

English language skills to help reach goals and create opportunities for the future. The Embassy also supports Sumnal with an English Language Fellow to train teachers of English.

♦ **To see his interview from this event, broadcasted on BTR TV [WMV file, size 13.5 MB), please [click here](#).**



*Relatives of victims of terrorism visit an Amman, Jordan, memorial in 2009, before the launch of the global survivors of terrorism network. AP photo*

## Annual Country Reports on Terrorism 2009 released

August 5, 2009

"Citizens from dozens of countries around the world, the vast majority of them not from the United States, are being victimized by terrorism (...) Transnational terrorism remains the foremost security threat the United States faces. ... [Full report \(PDF version\)](#) | [Macedonia](#) | [Europe](#) | [Middle East](#).

**The Department of State's Country Reports on Terrorism 2009 covers events from January 1 to December 31, 2009. This publication, which fulfills a Congressional requirement, aims to enhance our collective understanding of the international terrorist threat.**



*Ambassador Reeker talks to children from Stip dressed as famous characters from American History. (LP)*

## Celebrating Jazz and American Culture in Kavadarci

July 17, 2010

Ambassador Reeker traveled to Kavadarci to celebrate the city's American Day with Mayor Aleksandar Panov on Saturday, July 17. Children from the American Corner in Stip dressed as famous historical figures enthusiastically gave speeches about their significance in American history. In association with the local Peace Corps volunteers, the House of Culture then hosted a concert of jazz classics by Kavadarci's "Jam Band" alongside a slideshow of images from American history over the 20th century. Earlier that day, the Ambassador paid a visit to Stobi where the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation will be restoring early Christian frescoes from the Episcopal Basilica. Later, Ambassador Reeker toured Tikves Winery and visited the Monastery of St. George Poloshki on Tikves Lake. The evening concluded at the Prilep Beer Festival where Ambassador Reeker met with Mayor Marjan Risteski of Prilep to enjoy an evening of music, grill and the local beer.

◇ **To see more pictures from the event, please [click here](#).**

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**Small Grants information:** [http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small\\_grants\\_program.html](http://macedonia.usembassy.gov/small_grants_program.html)  
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